



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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STATEMENT OF SECRETARY BRUCE BABBITT

Released After His Meeting With Governors,
At Which Indian Gaming Issues Were Discussed

"My meeting with the Governors today was a positive one, and I greatly appreciate their input. The Governors were clear in stating their positions, and I was equally clear in stating that I need to hear from other interests before deciding what, if any, policy changes are needed. I also made clear my belief that most of these issues are best resolved by bilateral negotiations between states and tribes, as intended under the Indian Gaming Regulation Act, and that there is room for compromise. Our discussion was very helpful, but no commitments were made."

"I will continue to seek input from all sides in this debate, and will continue the search for a consensus position to which all parties can agree."

"I look forward to my meeting tomorrow with tribal leaders."

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